



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST CENTURY



1922-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Founded in 1922 and renamed after Dr. King in 1968, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center celebrates 100 years of service in 2022. The MLK Community Center is a central service provider for at-risk individuals, families, and seniors. The MLK builds community by promoting health, fighting hunger, supporting families, educating kids, and engaging seniors.

Mission

We nourish, educate, and support Newport County residents to improve their economic, social, and physical well-being.

Vision

We build a strong and inclusive community where all people are empowered to be self-reliant and to live their best quality of life.

Values

Excellence: We are flexible and creative in addressing our clients' needs, providing high-quality, best practice programming.

Respect and Compassion: We treat all people fairly, equitably, and compassionately.

Wise Stewardship: We make decisions responsibly, caring for our resources to ensure the long-term best interests of our community and our mission.

Collaboration: We are committed to partnerships to help better serve those in the greatest need and to strengthen us as an organization.

Education: We believe a nurturing, educational environment can lift children and adults from poverty and open the door to opportunity.

Self-Determination: We support our clients to make choices that improve their health and well-being.

Programs Encompass

Hunger Prevention and Nutrition

Early Childhood and Extended Learning Time Education

Community Support and Wellness

Board of Trustees

Whitney Slade, *President*
Rebecca Knapp LeBlanc, *Vice President*
Kim Bullock, *Co-Secretary*
John Rok, *Co-Secretary*
Margaret McGill, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Alofsin
Gail Alofsin
Betsy Blair
Kelly Doern
Nancy Horsey
Elizabeth Phelps
David D. Schuller
John P. Sullivan
Kathleen Taddei

2022 Programs

Adult Fitness & Wellness
After School
Cooking Classes
Client Support Services
Daily Bread
Daily Hot Breakfast
Food Delivery to Homebound
Food Pantry
Imagination Library (Books for Kids)
L.E.A.D. LGBTQ+ Youth Group
MLK Friends Lunches & Dinners
Mobile Food Pantry
Nutrition Counseling & Education
Preschool
Produce to the People
Sabores Latinos
Santa's Workshop (Toy & Gift Help)
Senior Lunch & Learn
Summer Camp
Summer Concert Series
Thanksgiving & Holiday Meal Help



Heather Hole Strout and Whitney Slade.

Dear Friends,

In the middle of our centennial year, we reflect on how we are continuing the Center's rich legacy of neighbors helping neighbors.

Central to our work is the belief that everyone should have access to adequate healthy food. We're offering more and better food, in more ways: the Mobile Food Pantry now visits twenty neighborhoods. Produce to the People is still at the Center, but also out in the community at Newport Heights and in Middletown at Oxbow Farms. We offer more hot meals, more often, to more people.

Community is our middle name. In fiscal year 2022 (FY22), we added and enhanced programming that moves us towards a more equitable and inclusive community. We offer free fitness programs four times weekly, where a person who uses the Breakfast program works out alongside a person who donates to the Center. We've had feedback that the Live from the Loading Dock concert series is "*the most community thing I've done all year.*" A free music series which includes a light meal like burgers and dogs, the program brings people together whose lives might not intersect

“Yesterday after I left the Center, it hit me that MLK programs are about more than providing food. It's a *place for people to feel a human connection*, a feeling that for many of our clients may often times be elusive. You probably know all this already (Community is in the Center's name, after all) but I had such an ah-ha! moment.”

— Volunteer, Portsmouth

otherwise. Some folks come for the grab n' go food and stay for the concert; Some folks come for the concert and enjoy a sandwich. Lunch & Learn is now offered twice monthly, so vulnerable seniors can connect more often. We have adapted to a changing community, offering programs and materials in Spanish and hiring bilingual staff.

Every parent wants their child to succeed. Despite working full-time and often at more than one job, most of the families who send their children to the MLK's Preschool, After School and Summer Camp don't qualify for federal childcare subsidies. So, we've dramatically increased scholarship funding so kids keep learning and thriving, and parents can keep working.

Each of us has an inherent responsibility for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we're working to make our corner of the world more just for everyone. We are proud to be a BRAVE Space (Belonging, Respect, Alliance, Validity and Equity), a member of a group of agencies working to be a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community.

The MLK's history mirrors the history of our community. In the following pages, you'll learn how the Center came to be in 1922 and how it has changed from a community organization in the Great Friends Meeting House, to a recreation center in a newly decommissioned USO building, to the social services community anchor it is today.

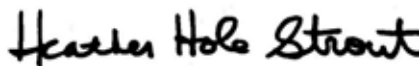
We're not just looking backwards: you'll learn about the success of the Building Hope Campaign, and our exciting plans to transform the MLK into a more client-driven and efficient place right in the heart of the city, where we've been for a hundred years.

Improving the wellbeing of the people in Newport County – economic, social, and physical – is what we do every day, and what we'll keep on doing as we begin our second century.

So, read on! Thank you for being part of our history and our future,



Whitney Slade
President, Board of Trustees



Heather Hole Strout
Executive Director

P.S. A word about the photos in this report: Masks have become commonplace. Some wear them, some don't. Our images reflect the norms of post pandemic, now endemic COVID-19.

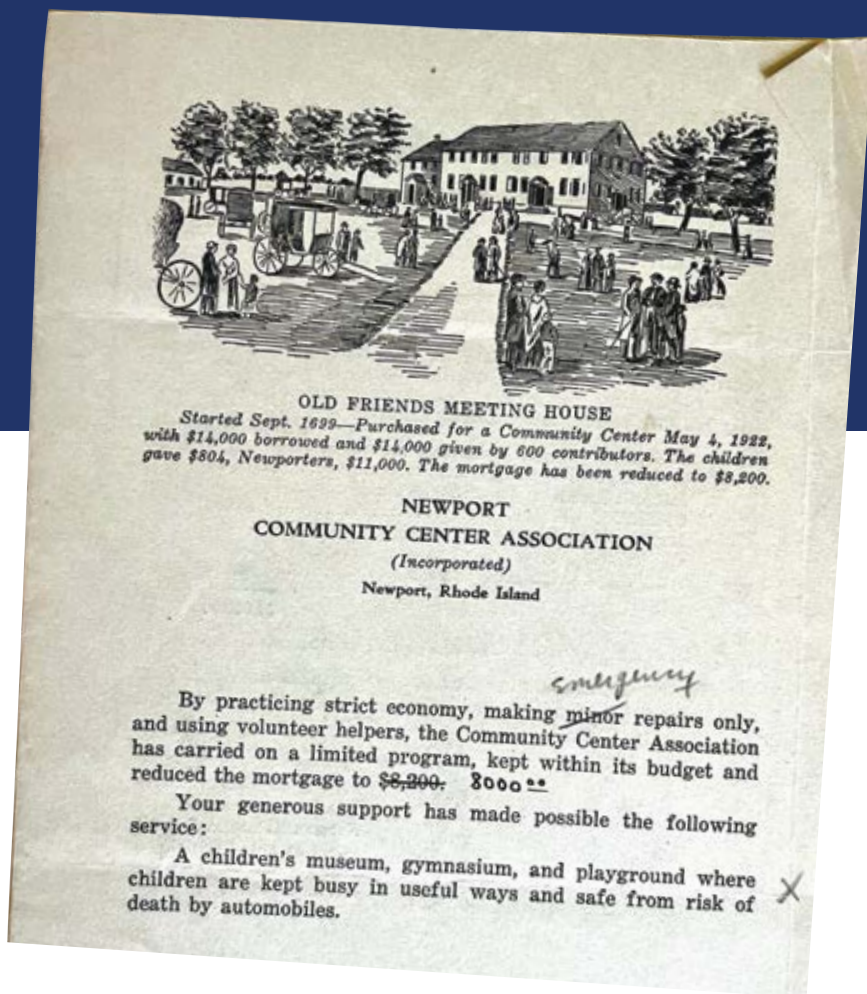


**Click on this photo
to view our video
celebrating the MLK
Community Center's
centennial.**

Our First Hundred Years

1922

In 1922, a group of community-minded people looked around their community, saw that the needs of their neighbors were unaddressed, and decided to do something about it. Joanna Buffum, Arthur Leland, Harold A. Peckham, William P. Sheffield, Jr., and Agnes C. Storer were members of the Newport Historical Society. The group looked to the Great Friends Meeting House, on the corner of Marlborough and Farewell Streets, as a location for the new organization to serve as a recreational center for Newport residents, especially citizens of the African American community, many of whom resided in the adjacent neighborhood. In 1922, the historic Meeting House was sold to the newly formed and incorporated Newport Community Center Association.



Newport Community Center
Annual Report, c. 1935.

From its 1922 opening, the Center immediately became a gathering place for people of all cultures and communities. Its board, staff, and clients were from every background and every neighborhood in town. The Newport Players' Guild ran a very active community theatre program and performed frequently at the Center. The theatre was also used for fashion and talent shows as well as other community presentations. As a youth recreation facility, it was THE place to go after school, on weekends, and in the summertime. A fondly remembered feature was its playground and adjacent basketball court. Over the years, there were also classes on cooking, arts and crafts, sewing, music, and drama. The Center hosted its own 4H chapter, two Girl Scout Troops and the Boy Scouts Troop 1. The Rhode Island Urban League got its start at the Center. The place was fondly called, "the Rec," largely for its recreation programs, but in part acknowledging the building's need for maintenance and repair.

1945

By 1945, the need for a more active, user-friendly facility became obvious. Wheeler Weston was hired as janitor and general supervisor of building and grounds. William Harrison became the first African-American Board Member, and Win Mason was appointed to study building improvements. As a result, the mortgage was increased, and a three-year rehabilitation process undertaken. A Board of Directors was elected and bylaws were put into place.

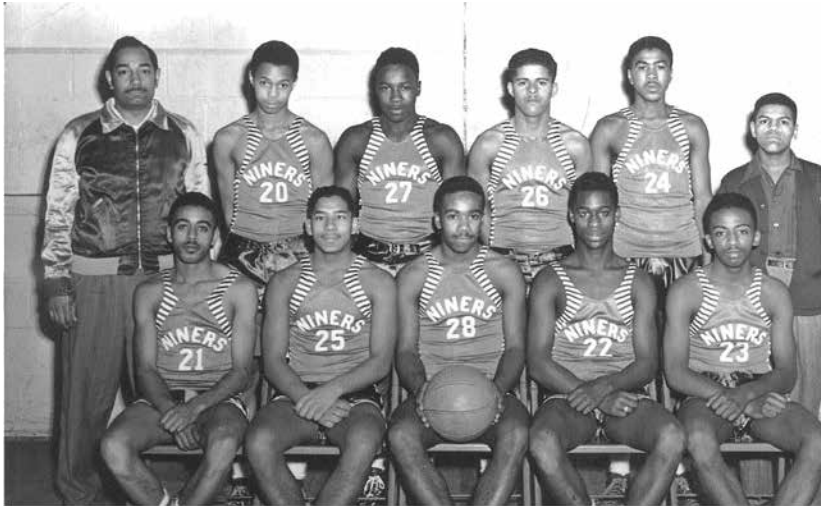
The Center also began hiring paid professional staff to run its programs and to supervise community volunteers. Community groups were also asked to pay rent for space. The RI Foundation and the Community Chest made grants to the organization, and a second African American joined the Board.

1946

In 1946, the Center instituted a summer Youth Hostel program which involved adding housing, showers, and a kitchen to the facility. Community support came from local businesses, the Navy, Red Cross, and community members who donated everything from a piano to kitchenware as well as their time and talent.



US Navy sailors and friends roller skating at the Center, 1948.



The Rec's Twenty Niners basketball champs, 1948-1949.

1951

In 1951, for the first time, the City of Newport supported the Center with a \$2,500 grant. A survey by the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers found that the Newport Community Center operated out of an unsuitable building, needed more professional staff and more programs to appropriately address the social needs and problems of the community. Nevertheless, the Center continued to operate with little financing, a small staff, and enthusiastic and energetic volunteers.



Harvest Revelor celebration, November 26, 1953.

Our First Hundred Years



An intent audience in what was then the Center's gym.



The USO Orchestra Group.

1960

Early in 1960, at the time when the Community Chest cut funding to the Center by a third, the question of selling the old Meeting House arose. The Board agreed that, unless a property that would allow the Center to conduct its full array of programs could be found, the Center would continue to operate in its current location. They appointed William Weston to the position of Director. Mrs. Alan Gibson was employed as the “girls’ worker.” Funding was restored.

Our First Hundred Years



Taken from the perspective of what is now the corner of Marcus Wheatland and Edward St., the exterior of the West Broadway USO building housing the Armed Forces YMCA. Today, this door is the entrance to the MLK's Preschool.

1967

In 1967, the USO building located on what was then known as West Broadway became city property and available for a reasonable price, because the military had been integrated and no longer needed the facility, which had been built in 1940-41 by the US Navy to house activities and programs for servicemen of color. During segregation, the Armed Services YMCA (now known as the McKinney Shelter) a few blocks away had been off limits – except at certain hours – to black soldiers and sailors. The Center's cinderblock bunker was capable of housing 90 men upstairs as well as accommodating dances, games, and plays in the gymnasium. The USO building was purchased by five prominent Newport citizens: Christopher D. Dutra, Ermino P. Lisbon, John B. Lisbon, Vernon Lisbon, and Robert S. Smith.



The Rec's girls' basketball team.

Our First Hundred Years



Moving Day from Great Friends Meeting House to former USO, *Newport Daily News*, May 15, 1967.

MOVING INTO NEW QUARTERS — Warren Weston, right, manager of the Community Center, leads group of young helpers moving furniture from the old Friends Building on Marlborough Street to the new center, the former USO building on West Broadway at Edward Street. (Daily News Photo)



Ship donates TV to Newport Community Center. Mrs. John Howard Benson & Warren Weston. *Newport Daily News*, June 17, 1967.

SHIP DONATES TV — Mrs. John Howard Benson of the Community Center board, thanks Donald Spadt, of the destroyer Charles S. Sperry for a television set donated to the Community Center by the men of the Sperry. Standing at right is Warren Weston, director of the Community Center. The TV set was the second donated to a Newport institution by a member of Destroyer Squadron 24. The first set went to the Children's Home.

Our First Hundred Years

1967

The National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers surveyed the property and their recommendations about utilizing the space and establishing programs were accepted. The Rhode Island Foundation provided major funding for the purchase and renovation of the USO. The group sold the former USO building to the Newport Community Center in 1967. In May 1967, Director Warren Weston began the "hundred feet" journey to move the Newport Community Center down West Broadway into its new headquarters.

1968

In 1968 after the assassination of Dr. King, the Center was re-dedicated in his honor and became the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. (The Center's legal name is the Martin Luther King Community Center, Incorporated.)

Mayor Proclaims June 24 To 30 Community Center Week

CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Newport Community Center Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, has for 46 years been a strong constructive force in the community by providing extensive educational and leisure-time activities for our citizens in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, An important objective of this Association is to encourage teenagers and young people to participate in its comprehensive programs and services in an effort to promote sound moral values and healthy personality development of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, The programs and services conducted by the Newport Community Center Association, Inc., are wide and varied in scope and include those in the recreational, charitable and educational fields; and

WHEREAS, The Newport Community Center Association, Inc., is a great asset to Newport and its people. We extend our appreciation to its Officers and Board of Directors, its Director and Staff Members, and the Volunteer Workers who have worked so diligently to provide the needed guidance and training for our young people in order that they will be of benefit to themselves in their everyday lives and become better citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That I, Fred R. Alofsin, Mayor of the City of Newport, Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim the week of June 24-30, 1968 as

"COMMUNITY CENTER WEEK"

and do call upon all citizens to support the efforts of the Newport Community Center Association, Inc., not only this week but throughout the year, so that they may carry forward their programs and services which are essential to the strengthening of family life and the well-being of our community and its people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Newport to be affixed this 12th day of June, A. D., 1968.



Fred R. Alofsin
Fred R. Alofsin,
Mayor

Community Center Week,
June 24-30, 1968

Newport Daily News
supplement, June 22, 1968.

The photo is very grainy but illustrates the overall size of the building when compared to the present-day photo on the back cover. In FY22, 657,240 meals were distributed from a building largely unchanged in over five decades.



WEST BROADWAY SCENE CHANGES — This exterior view shows war-time U.S.O. Center, now being converted into new home for Newport Community Center. Later this month it will be dedicated as 'Martin

Luther King Jr. Community Center', in memory of noted Negro winner of Nobel Peace Prize.

Our First Hundred Years

1970

In 1970, Ron Miller became the first African American Board Chair. His concern was with responsibility – personal, civic, and racial. He was followed by Thornton Drummond who headed what had become a mainly African American Board. The United Way continued to be a major funder.

Dr. Rowena Stewart followed Warren Weston as Executive Director and instituted a variety of new programs: college trips, outreach, high school equivalency, teenagers' "lounge," college tutorials, and strong alliances with government agencies. She also implemented the Adolescent Residential Center, the first in Rhode Island. It operated successfully for three years until funds were no longer available.

1982

In 1982, Marcia G. Farrar was appointed Executive Director. During her tenure, a multi-year plan was developed. The result was a capital campaign which returned the Center to fiscal strength, enabling the implementation of Day Care and After School Programs, the Feed a Friend Food Pantry, breakfast and senior citizen programs, which continue to the present.

1984

The Internal Revenue Service granted the Center 501 (c) (3) non-profit status in 1984.

After Marcia Farrar's untimely passing, the Center faced difficult times. Suggestions were made to merge the Center with another Newport social services agency, New Visions. Elsie Yates Goodrum, a Newport native and New Visions employee, was appointed interim Executive Director at this time. Elsie Goodrum had grown up in the community, with "the Rec" a part of her adolescence. Knowing that the MLKCC had a unique role and filled a unique need in the community, she committed to its leadership. Merger talks ceased, and in 1992, the Center began to renovate.

In 1994, the MLK's street address changed as West Broadway was renamed in honor of Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland, an African American physician who owned the first x-ray machine in Newport.

1999

Amanda Frye Leinhos joined the Center as Executive Director in 1999.

The Center's Preschool was certified as a Center of Excellence by the Federal Early Reading First Initiative for its outstanding early literacy program. The Lighthouse Preschool was one of fewer than 60 preschools nationwide to achieve this designation.

2005

In 2005, the Center's summer literacy program became the model for all Reading Reaps Rewards programs sponsored by Newport Public Schools.

The Teen Center program, based on the three themes of ScholarShip, LeaderShip, and CitizenShip, offered a wide variety of academic and enrichment activities six days a week for middle and high school students, including regular college tours, community service, and civic engagement projects.

Our First Hundred Years

2011

Marilyn Warren was named Executive Director in 2011.

Mirroring the national economic downturn and recession, grant funding and donor support dropped in the latter years of the 21st century's first decade. The Center entered a period of belt-tightening during the initial years of Warren's tenure. Unsustainable programs like the Teen Center were shuttered because of poor participation.

The period of 2011-2016 saw tremendous change and growth at the Center. A holistic program framework was developed. Vigorous community outreach connected with donors, funders, and clients. The Center increased collaboration with fellow nonprofits. The Center expanded its service area from just the city to include all six municipalities in Newport County.

2012

The Center's Hunger Services expanded beyond Daily Breakfast and the Food Pantry to serve the homebound hungry in 2012. A group of community stakeholders collaborated on the design and implementation of the innovative Food 2 Friends program. The first delivery was in February of 2013.

2013

In 2013, the Center underwent a major fundraising campaign to fund the renovation of the first floor administrative spaces and Hunger Services programs. The successful campaign paved the way for major changes: the addition of a loading dock to receive donations and deliveries, moving the food pantry to a better location on the first floor and doubling it in size, and the addition of a commercial sized walk-in freezer and cooler unit on a cement pad external to the storage pantry. These renovations included moving the main entrance from Tilden Avenue to a welcoming and accessible "front door" entry on Dr. Marcus F Wheatland Boulevard, the reorganization of administrative spaces to increase productivity; and the enlargement of the lobby to permit seating of a dozen guests. These Administrative and Hunger Services renovations were completed in 2014.

2015

The Center became a partner in the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ) in 2015. The HEZ is a multi-year, multi-pronged grant project led by the Women's Resource Center. A place-based and resident-driven initiative, HEZ focuses on the health of the Broadway and North End neighborhoods. The Center leads the LGBTQIA+ working group.

Community and Wellness programs continued to expand in 2015-2017 with the addition of free exercise programs, and senior engagement programs.

2016

The preschool was renovated in 2016 and a major renovation of the Center's second floor was completed in early summer, 2017. This project consolidated all youth programming for After School and Summer Camp to the second floor of the building.

2018

Marilyn Warren retired in December 2018. Heather Hole Strout succeeded her as Executive Director.

2019

The Mobile Food Pantry was piloted in 2018 and a vehicle purchased in 2019.

Our First Hundred Years

2020

Strong community relationships and the growth of hunger relief programs positioned the Center to be ready to respond to the unprecedented challenges created by COVID-19. When the pandemic forced the MLK to close the education programs and dismiss all volunteers, the small staff of 18 worked to meet the needs of a community in crisis, distributing over 715,000 meals in 2020. The MLK has remained open throughout the pandemic and has not closed for a single day of programming.

During the pandemic, the MLK launched a monthly free book gifting program for children from birth to age 5. The affiliate of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at the MLK is the largest in the state of Rhode Island and has provided books at no-cost to thousands of local children.

The Center's work during the acute period of the pandemic reinforced the importance of connections between people. Programs that build community emerged from the crisis, like the Live from the Loading Dock concert series, L.E.A.D. (Love Equity, Acceptance and Dreams) LGBTQIA+ youth peer group, free adult fitness programs, and Produce to the People vegetable distribution at the Center and offsite in Middletown and Newport.

2022

The need for hunger relief remains very strong, even as Newport County emerges from the crisis days of the pandemic. The Center distributed over 657,000 meals in FY22, more than 4 ½ times the amount distributed less than a decade ago, from a building whose size has not changed in over half a century. Sustained growth in hunger services programs has pointed the way for renovation and expansion of the building to accommodate the needs of the community, via the transformative Building Hope Campaign.

Celebrating its 100th birthday in 2022, the MLK Community Center now serves well over 5,000 people annually with hunger relief, early childhood and extended-time education, fitness and wellness programming that makes Newport County a better place to live, learn, work, and grow.



Aerial view of the MLK Community Center, present day.

2022 Impact



0

NUMBER OF DAYS THE CENTER
WAS CLOSED SINCE THE 2019
PANDEMIC START

FOR EVERY

\$1.00
DONATED



80¢



IS APPLIED
TO PROGRAM
COSTS

Client Demographics

5,670

CLIENTS
SERVED

1,267

NEW, FIRST-TIME
MLK CLIENTS

29%

IDENTIFY AS
HISPANIC/LATINX

29%

SENIORS
AGE 55+

30%

CHILDREN AGE
BIRTH – 17

98%

EARN UNDER
\$34,000/YEAR

82%

EARN UNDER
\$17,000/YEAR

YET
ONLY

41%

RECEIVE SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE

Hunger Services

657,240

MEALS
PROVIDED



85,000+

POUNDS OF
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED

GROCERY DELIVERIES TO
HOMEBOUND SENIORS

1,332

14,943

HOT BREAKFASTS
SERVED TO MOSTLY
HOMELESS CLIENTS



Mobile
Pantry

156

VISITS TO

20

NEIGHBORHOODS

616

FAMILIES RECEIVED A TURKEY
AND ALL THANKSGIVING
MEAL INGREDIENTS

28,800

SOUP AND
SANDWICH
GRAB N GO
MEALS SERVED

Family/Child Services



1,686

CHILDREN RECEIVED A BOOK EACH
MONTH FROM DOLLY PARTON
IMAGINATION LIBRARY (AGES BIRTH-5)

124

CHILDREN ATTENDED
PRESCHOOL,
SUMMER CAMP
AND AFTER
SCHOOL

LOW-INCOME, WORKING PARENTS RECEIVED

\$227,230

IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MLK EDUCATION PROGRAMS,

AN INCREASE OF 18% FROM 2021

Community Programs

169

FREE EXERCISE
CLASSES OFFERED



45

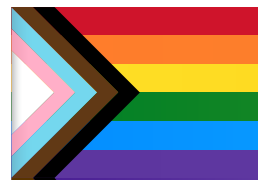
PARTICIPATED
IN ENGLISH AND
SPANISH COOKING CLASSES



10.8

TONS OF FOOD
DIVERTED FROM
WASTE STREAM

16



YOUTH PARTICIPATED
IN WEEKLY LGBTQIA+
PEER GROUP

48

SENIORS ATTENDED TWICE-
MONTHLY LUNCH & LEARN

3,600

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES
AND DINNERS PROVIDED



916

CHILDREN RECEIVED
TOYS & GIFTS FROM
SANTA'S WORKSHOP

NUMBER OF TIMES WE
INTERPRETED FOR CLIENTS

598

Volunteers

501

INDIVIDUALS
VOLUNTEERED

17,333

HOURS OF SERVICE

Financial Report

Audited Financial Statement for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Public Support:

United States Government	\$ 46,722
State of Rhode Island	\$ 170,425
Municipal Support	\$ 44,500
Foundation and Corporate Support	\$ 6,341,173
Individual Support	\$ 3,264,713
In-Kind Contributions ¹	\$ 790,756

Total Public Support ² **\$10,658,289**

Revenue:

Education Fees	\$ 464,349
Client Employment, Parking Lot Fees	\$ 77,903
Investment Income (Loss), Net	\$ (624,256)
Interest Income	\$ 2,037
Loss on Disposal of Equipment	\$ (847)
Other Revenue	\$ 5,799

Total Revenue **\$ (75,015)**

Total Public Support and Revenue **\$10,583,274**

Program Expenses:

Hunger Services	\$ 1,440,628
Education Programs	\$ 921,799
Community Programs	\$ 370,451

Total Program Expenses **\$ 3,732,878**

Supporting Service Expenses

Management and General Expenses	\$ 442,635
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 242,972

Total Supporting Service Expenses **\$ 685,607**

Total Expenses **\$ 3,418,485**

Change in Net Assets **\$ 7,164,789**

Net Assets, Beginning of Year **\$ 6,907,559**

Net Assets, End of Year **\$14,072,348**

NET ASSETS 2015 – 2022



Individual, foundation, and corporate support sustains the MLK. Only 2.4% of the Center's Total Public Support derives from municipal, state, or federal government funding sources.

¹ Much of the food distributed is donated. Donated food is recorded as contribution revenue using per-pound values established by Feeding America, the national food bank network. The per-pound value for the prior year was \$1.74. The per-pound value for the period of this report increased to \$1.92. The Center supplements donated food supplies by purchasing nutritious food items not regularly donated.

² In Fiscal Year 2022, Capital Campaign Contributions totaled \$7,256,645.

³ Endowed Funds: \$4,283,329.

⁴ Six-month fiscal year: January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021.

BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN



Escalating demand for services coupled with inadequate storage and program space reached critical mass in 2020. In 2013, we provided 144,000 meals. In FY2022, we provided over 657,000 meals, over 350% more in just nine years, in a building whose size has changed little in over 50 years. Moving the MLK to another location was not an option so we knew we had to update the building to meet the needs of our community. The three-part **Building Hope Campaign** will:

- ❖ Expand the building to make it more client-focused and efficient.
- ❖ Capitalize our strategic goals for increased services for hunger relief, expanded senior and education services, and support for the Latinx population.
- ❖ Build our endowment to fund our next century.

Launched in September 2021, the campaign successfully concluded in 8 short months with a combined raise of gifts and pledges in excess of the campaign goal of \$7,000,000. The Center will remain open throughout the renovation and construction period, which is expected to conclude in late 2023.



Campaign Committee

HONORARY CHAIRS

The Honorable Representative
Marvin L. Abney
Elizabeth "Lisette" Prince
Suzette Schochet

CHAIRS

Betsy Blair and Jim Van Winkle

Ida Aramli
Mark Aramli
Carol Bazarsky
Barbara Benson
Elizabeth Beretta-Perik
Julia Coll
George W. Emerson, III
Heather Hole Strout
Rose M. Hyder
Gail Jacobs
Elizabeth Leatherman
Leppy McCarthy
Alyson Novick
Richard Sardella
David D. Schuller
Whitney C. Slade
Gail Thacher
Jane Mead Timken

Honor Roll

Since 2005, the MLK Community Center has bestowed the Keeper of the Dream award annually on those whose outstanding commitment most embodies the ideals of our namesake, Dr. King. The Volunteer of the Year award was created in 2007 and in 2012, the MLK added an award to recognize businesses or community partners with exceptional commitment.

2021 HONOREES

KEEPER OF THE DREAM

Jane Mead Timken

KEEPER OF THE DREAM - COMMUNITY PARTNER

Blount Fine Foods

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Lois and Bob Zawrotny

PREVIOUS HONOREES

2020

Keeper: Nancy and Doug Horsey
Partner: Jamestown Community Farm
Volunteer: Betsy Blair and Jim Van Winkle

2019

Keeper: Point Association of Newport
Partner: BankNewport
Volunteer: Gary Klein

2018

Keeper: Bazarsky Family Foundation
Partner: Middletown Rotary Club
Volunteer: Stephen and Zulekha Ludwig

2017

Keeper: Walter and Eileen Jachna
Partner: Newport Harbor Corporation
Volunteer: Lisa McWilliams

2016

Keeper: Rena DiMuccio
Partner: The Waters Edge Flowers
Volunteer: George W. Emerson

2015

Keeper: David and Donna Goodrich
Partner: Aquidneck Island
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
Volunteer: Farouk and Susan Niazy

2014

Keeper: Dr. Susan Walker
Partner: Home Depot Store #4287,
Middletown, Rhode Island
Volunteer: Joann Carlson and Peggy Clay

2013

Keeper: David D. Schuller
Partner: Gilbane Building Company
Volunteer: Donald G. Pfeiffer

2012

Keeper: Liz and Emlen Drayton
Partner: Atlantic Beach Club & Pavilion
Volunteer: Liz and Bob Mastin

2010

Keeper: Noreen Stonor Drexel
Volunteer: Rosalind Vaz MacLean

2009

Keeper: The Wilcox Family
Foundation
Volunteer: Steven Turilli

2008

Keeper: William and Alison Vareika
Volunteer: George Steele

2007

Keeper: Ronald and Lillian Dick
Volunteer: David and Donna Goodrich

2006

Keeper: Suzette D. Schochet

2005

Keeper: Richard Sardella

No awards were bestowed in 2011.

Keepers of the Dream

Jane Mead Timken

An extraordinary gift that transformed the Center forever.



“The house that Jane gave.”

Long a friend of the MLK Community Center, it was late in 2020 during the height of the pandemic when Jane did something extraordinary that transformed the Center forever. Discussing how much in need our community was, and how committed the MLK was to meeting that need, Jane wanted to do more to help, beyond her already deeply generous philanthropy. When she offered to gift her historic Newport home to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center to establish an endowment, we were flabbergasted: *“She’s going to give us her house ?!?”*

The house in the Point section of Newport was sold for \$1,700,000. Proceeds from that sale funded the endowment in her name, the Center’s first. Because of the house that Jane gave, the MLK now has an endowment to help ensure we can keep meeting our mission with long-term fiscal sustainability. Her incredible gift changed the Center forever.

Over the years, the remarkable generosity she and her family have directed from the Timken Matthews Family Foundation has ensured we can continue innovating in our work to fight hunger, promote health, educate kids, support families, and engage seniors. Because of Jane Mead Timken, Newport County is a better place to live, work, and grow. Quite simply, she is essential to our community, and especially to the MLK.



Jane Mead Timken

Keeper of the Dream Community Partner

Blount Fine Foods



A bedrock truth that informs the MLK's work is this:
food-insecure people want – and deserve – healthy food.



Grab n' Go soup meals are offered twice a week, year-round.

Because of the steadfast support of Blount Fine Foods, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center provides healthy, hearty, and delicious soups and meals in our Hunger Services programs. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognized a serious deficit in community meal support and began offering twice-weekly midday Grab 'n Go meals to the most vulnerable people in Newport County. When emergency funding was exhausted, we knew we had to continue and looked for a partner willing to sustain the program. Blount Fine Foods quickly stepped up to the plate and agreed to donate soup for the hundreds of servings we provide each week.



Dishing up delicious Blount Soup for a hearty and healthy lunch.

For five generations, Blount Fine Foods has been a trusted and valued producer for many of the leading food companies and finer dining establishments across America. Along the way, the company started preparing products that people crave but too often don't have the time to make. Blount crafts high quality, homestyle foods made from carefully selected and sourced ingredients.

The team at Blount Fine Foods rose to the challenge of meeting the need for community meals at the MLK and has donated over six tons of prepared soup and food last year alone. Because of Blount Fine Foods, 14,400 soup meals were distributed via the MLK's Grab n' Go soup program. The company's generous support means we can sustain this critically important hunger relief and community-building program.

Blount Fine Foods has donated over 6 tons of prepared soup and food to MLK last year alone.

Volunteers of the Year

Lois and Bob Zawrotny

They are true-blue for the MLK. Last year, the pair selflessly gave 478 hours of their time to the Center.

We can't imagine the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center without "Lois and Bobby Z."

In August 2020, when we sought volunteers to come back in the building despite the still-raging pandemic, theirs were among the very first faces we saw. Lois had volunteered since 2018 but Bob's work schedule didn't allow time for volunteering. In 2020, when Covid business shutdowns freed up the couple's time, we first saw Bob at the Center. (We didn't see all of Bob's face until months later when we were able to lift mask requirements in the building.)

Lois and Bob stock the food pantry, serve breakfast in the wee hours, escort clients through the Food Pantry, pick up and stock our Daily Bread, flip burgers at concerts, volunteer at events, glean farmer's markets, ...the list goes on and on. They are true-blue for the MLK. Last year, the pair selflessly gave 478 hours of their time to the Center.

Because of the Zawrotnys, the MLK Community Center has a volunteer database. Bob and Lois spent countless hours understanding our needs and challenges in a volunteer management tool, and then countless more hours sourcing and reviewing possible tools, and yet still countless more hours ensuring the successful installation of and training on the chosen tool.

We can't overstate the impact of this project. We now communicate easily and efficiently with our hundreds of volunteers who perform dozens of tasks almost daily.



Lois and Bob Zawrotny in the storage pantry, just one of the programs they volunteer in each week.

We've bid goodbye to the clipboards of handwritten hard-to-read names and clunky spreadsheets trying to tally volunteer hours. The couple's efforts have freed up staff time to build our growing suite of Community programs.

Beyond giving their precious time, Lois and Bob also give generously to sustain our critical programs. They offer wisdom, energy, commitment, and a positive attitude that improves each program they touch.

Their efforts have freed up staff time to build our growing suite of Community programs.

Supporters

A Community of Supporters...a Community Worthy of Support

The MLK Community Center creates change via a network that is both broad and deep. Every gift, every collaboration, every donated hour supports the Center's mission to better the lives of Newport County residents. Listed within these pages are the names of generous donors who make monetary donations and donate food and other program supplies and of selfless volunteers who perform vital roles around the Center.

Just as every person who walks through the Center's doors matters, each name listed here is essential. We are deeply grateful to our community of supporters and friends.

\$100,000 and above

Anonymous
Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
BankNewport
Bazarsky Family Foundation
Diane and Andy Berk
Betsy Blair and Jim Van Winkle
The BnV Funds
Pamela Giannini
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\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Dwight and Susan Sipprelle
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The Champlin Foundation
The Speer Family
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Priceless summer camp memories like this happen because of generous scholarship funding.

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous (4)
Amica Companies Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Cummins Family Fund
Corrigan Financial Inc.
Elizabeth Gordon Dellenbaugh and
Bradley Dellenbaugh

“Thank you for the lovely tour – it was terrific to see such a successful effort at community outreach. Clearly, happy staff and volunteers create a comfortable atmosphere for your clients.”

— Donor, Newport

Supporters

EWE Spirit Foundation Inc.
Sue Klau
George and Sue Petrovas
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The New York Community Trust
The Sella Foundation Trust
Suzi and David Van Ness
Webster Bank
Henry T. Wrobel and Donna L. McCarthy

“I had such heart-warming vibes every time I read yet another email or saw another Facebook post of all the over the top community outreach the Center has engaged in during this devastating pandemic! I'm so proud of all your efforts and love that you have shown toward those who really needed it during this very uncertain time. Thank you for putting in the extraordinary time, energy, effort, and love that has made such a huge difference in the lives of all our Newport County friends.”

— Donor, Portsmouth

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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APEX Technology
Audrey S Holden Bennett
Billy Andrade-Brad Faxon
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Mark and Donna Ross Family Foundation
Drs. Rosalind and David MacLean



Volunteers restock the food pantry every day. MLK Hunger Relief programs distributed over 657,000 meals in FY22.

Supporters

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Coverys
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Marilyn Curtis
Lisa Daly
DCG Synergy Fund



Frequent lunches and dinners offer delicious food for dine-in or take-away, increasing food access while building community.

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Preschool patriotism on the Fourth of July.

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 Albert and Jocelyn Sherman
 Michelle Skoorka and David Burgess

“I spent a good portion of my childhood in Newport living right up the road from the MLK Center. But as a kid, I did not require the services you provide — so to me it was just a building. It wasn't until I moved back to Newport 2 years ago that I was able to really witness the magnitude of what it is that you all do. Your mission has really done amazing things for this community, and now also for me personally, because you should absolutely include improving *mental well-being* to that list.”

— Newport

Supporters

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\$500 - \$999

Anonymous (4)
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The free Live from the Loading Dock concert series celebrates the universal love of music.

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\$250 - \$499

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 Jane Dwyer
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 Zia and Denys Eftekhari
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“This food program has carried me through. I adore the food equity you’ve created in your community. I was homeless 4 or 5 years ago...and now I’m working towards starting my own non-profit. It’s amazing how far I’ve come.”

— Newport, Produce to the People Program



Fresh and often local produce is offered weekly at the Center and offsite in Newport Heights and Oxbow Farms.

Supporters

Mauyra Eska
 Mary Iliff Ewenson
 Richard and Denise Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick Team
 Adrian Flatgard and Sharon Flatgard
 Frazzleberries
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 Eric Lyon
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 Gene and Maureen McCabe
 Elizabeth McColloch
 Janeen McDonald
 Kerri McNamara
 Joseph and Victoria Mele
 David Middleton
 Victoria Miklos



Our "souper" volunteers preparing sandwiches and soup for twice weekly Grab n' Go lunches.

Guy Molinari
 Mark Muettert and Jacqueline Colbert
 Kaitlyn Nanartowich
 Peter Neronha and Shelly Johnson
 Newport Power Yoga
 Michael O'Mealey
 Brian and Annette Pelletier
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 Evelyn Sterne
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The GE Foundation
 The Newport Sweet Shoppe
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 Mark and Elizabeth Thompson
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 Judy A. Tucker
 Manuel and Mary Vales
 Gary Vogel
 Robert and Annie Wilson
 John and Linnea Wolfe
 Kenton Zimmerman

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (6)
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Jeannine Bestoso
Bridget Bidlack
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Rudy Borgueta
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Dell Technologies

“The scholarship for preschool is a godsend to me. I want to thank everyone here for everything they do. I'm working hard and most of my pay was going to childcare. I finally feel like I can breathe again.”

— Newport Mom of three year old daughter

Edythe Demarco
Lauren DeSantis
Melissa Deutschmann
Mary DiBara and James Harrington
William and Kathleen Dickenson
Bette A. DiDonato
David and Maureen Doern
Brendan Doherty
Elizabeth and Paul Doucette
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Timothy and Cheryl Farrey
Marybeth Fenton
Stephen Ferreira



A return to in-person preschool graduation in 2022.

Supporters



The Mobile Food Pantry made 156 visits to 20 neighborhoods in Newport, Middletown, Jamestown, Portsmouth, and Tiverton.

Kiki Finn
Terri and Mike Fitch
Jacqui Fitzgerald
Nelia and Adam Flis
Peter and Maria Flood
Marilyn E. Flynn
Scott S. Foberg and Janet M. White
Roger and Jane Fontaine
Deborah Foppert and Eric Archer
Kara Forde
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Kate Kirby Greenman
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Nancy Grinnell
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Harry Hallgring
Craig Hammonds
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Jeanne and William Harrington
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Angela Henken
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John and Mary Hirschboeck
Lydia Hofstetter
Leslie Hogan
Elaine Holder
John and Kathleen Hole
Patricia and Cecil Hollingsworth

Andrea Hollis and Robert Rotondo
Duncan Hughes
Ms. Alexa Hunter
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International Tennis Hall of Fame
Anthony and Lucia Jaccaci
Walter and Eileen Jachna
Robert and Cynthia Jackson
Ms. Linda T. Jenkins
Robin Jones
Just for Today
Andrew and Wendy Kagan
Matthew Kane
Selina D. Kardel
Don and Caroline Kaull
Jim Kaull
John and Julie Kaull
Michael Keating

“We moved to Tiverton from down south and soon learned of your traveling food pantry. You have made a positive impact on our lives. Thank you for helping us stretch our food budget each month. Without your assistance, eating healthy meals every day would be difficult for us.”

— Tiverton, Mobile Food Pantry

Supporters

Martin and Mary Hall Keen
Winkle Kelley
Tim, Marni and Ashton Kellogg
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Richard and Joan Kelly
John and Susan Kenny
Robert and Susan Kieronski
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Elena T. Kissel
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Mary Clare O'Grady
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Darlene and Owen O'Neill
Margie, Missy, Brian and Salpi O'Neill
Paul and Patricia Onofrio
Mary O'Reilly Dema
Glenn Ormiston
Lillie Paiva



Excited young readers help stock our Little Free Library, offering
take a book / leave a book to the community.

Supporters



The MLK's LEAD (Love, Equity, Acceptance, and Dreams) youth peer group supports Newport Pride ceremonies at City Hall.

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 Keith Tavares
 Conrad Peter Tea
 Linda Tempesta
 Andrew Teolis
 Gail Thacher
 Thames Glass, Inc.
 Adam Thayer
 The Cookie Jar
 The GoodCoin Foundation
 The Kings Lens

“Thank you for the work
 you do helping kids to find
 safe spaces, connection, and
 themselves!!!”

— Parent of youth
 participating in L.E.A.D.
 LGBTQIA+ peer group

Supporters

The New HBC Worship Center
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Up to \$99

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Lynn Ellis
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Folks who Grow a Row for the MLK helped make it possible for the Center to distribute over 85,000 pounds of fresh veggies.

Supporters

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Movement and mindfulness is incorporated into Preschool, After School, and Summer Camp.

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 Walter Kupec
 Anthony Kwetkowski
 Debbie Kwetkowski
 Michael and Marisa Labonte
 Colette Lafond
 Leigea Landry

“You guys are such a blessing in my life. I love it when I go through the pantry with the dietitian. It makes me so much more knowledgeable. You’ve really stepped up your game. There’s more choice and less limits on items. I’ve had times when my stove hasn’t worked so being able to get as much tuna and bread as I want meant I could make sandwiches for a bunch of meals.”

— Newport, Food Pantry

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Lauro and Barbara Rozul
Hope Rubin
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Deanna San Antonio
Sandra Sanders



"I'm learning how to cook!" The MLK offers cooking classes in both English and Spanish.

Jeannie Santos
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Grant Satterley
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In-Kind

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Twice-monthly senior Lunch & Learn offers fellowship, a hearty hot meal, and fun and interesting topics like the paint-along session shown here. (And sometimes, kids join in the fun.)



The MLK's Thanksgiving program provided a turkey and all the ingredients for the traditional meal to 616 families.

Supporters

Bowen's Wharf Company
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 Esther Boucher
 Catherine Bowen

“The MLK has helped my family so much. We get food every month, and we couldn't get by without it. I know I'm big and I'm trying to get healthy, but it's hard. The food we can afford isn't great.”

— Newport, Food 2 Friends

Supporters

Alicia Cipriano and Robert Walsh
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 Nancy Deutsch
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 David and Maureen Doern
 Kelly Doern
 Maryellen Doherty
 Sandy Dolnier



Food 2 Friends delivers groceries directly to vulnerable homebound seniors.

Erin Donovan
 Moulay Y. Dos Santos
 Michael Dreyer
 Nancy Dubreuil
 Alexandra Ducas
 Mike Duhamel
 Shelley Dungan
 Melissa Easley
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 East Greenwich Rotary
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 Ruth Flis
 Foodlove Market
 Willow Foregger
 Forest Avenue School
 Forest Avenue School Garden
 Forest Avenue School Parent Teacher Group
 James Freess and Sondra Gold
 Jean and Russell Frisbie
 Gaines Trucking

**“This program is a lifesaver
 for this housebound and
 disabled person. Many, many
 heartfelt thanks to ALL.”**

*—Jamestown,
 Food 2 Friends*

Supporters

Jane Galin
Michele Gallagher Glesinger
Amanda Gallagher
Marguerite Gallagher
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Linda Gillette
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Bernice Greene
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Jennie Howell



Llama Llama Red Pajamas joined generations of families celebrating one year of the Imagination Library books-for-kids program.

Supporters

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 Lynn Manning
 Matt Marano
 Rebecca Marasco
 Celia Marie



At the MLK, the hours after school are a resource for working parents and a hearty snack, homework help, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Art enrichment activities, and just plain fun for kids.

Supporters

Alana Markowitz
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 Steve Moore
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The MLK Community Center was named "Best Nonprofit" at the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Awards.

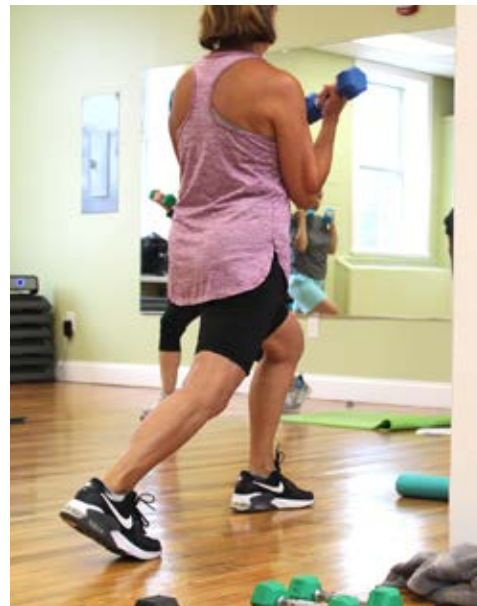
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 Melody Mulcahey
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 Jim and Dorothy Murphy
 Tod and Marybeth Murphy
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 Neon Market Place
 New Heights Charter School
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 Newport County Board of Realtors
 Newport County YMCA
 Newport County YMCA Special Olympics
 Newport Democratic City Committee
 Newport Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
 Eileen on Thames
 Newport Havurah
 Newport Hospital

Newport Hospital Reward and
 Recognition Committee
 Newport International Boat Show
 Newport Marriott
 Newport Martial Arts
 Newport Pediatric Dentistry
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 Newport Restoration Foundation -
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 Newport Restoration Foundation -
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Donald G. Pfeiffer and
Audrey MacLeod-Pfeiffer
Ashley Ewenson Phillips
David Phillips

Jade K. Phillips
Kevin and Joanne Phillips
PHS Knitting Club
James Pierce
Missy and John Pinheiro
Elizabeth Pinto and Kathleen Almanzor
Michael and Elizabeth Pinto
Playtex
Polo Cleaners
Maria Portela
Portsmouth Abbey School
Portsmouth Community Food Bank
Susan Potter
Linda Poulton
Pour Judgement
Precise Systems
Maren Prenosil
David Price
Luke Primis
Elizabeth "Lisette" Prince
Provencal Bakery
PVD Community Angels/RI Senate
Alexandra Quick
John Quinn
J. Kenneth and Alicia Quirk
R&R Construction
RA NEW Salon & Spa
Karen Rafanelli
Raytheon Technologies
Redwood Library & Anthenaeum
Kerrington Reed
Robert and Jonna Reed
Elizabeth Reid
Alan Reilly
Rejects Beer Co.
Renaissance Fitness & Cycle
Denise Reniere
Tony and Lynne Rey
Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Rhode Island Nutrition
RI Mushroom Company LLC
RI Veterans Home
Jane and David Riley
Brandon Ritt
Ann Ritterbusch
Patricia Rizzo
Robin Hollow Farm
Rock Lobster
Taylor Rock
David and Marilyn Roderick
Addie Rodman



Diverse members of the community connect in exercise programs, offered four times each week.

Catherine Rodrigues
John and Kathryn Rok
Roots Farm
Victor Rose
Rotary Club of Newport Rhode Island
Rotary Club of Portsmouth
Bambi Roth-Nuki
Lorretta Roy
Meredith Rugg
Emilio Ruiz
Paul Runci and Charlotta Runci
Louis Rutherford
S.E. Children Youth & Family
Sail Newport
Maren Salas
Salvation Café
Salve Regina University
Salve Regina University Hydroponic Lab
Saunders Family
Sayer Regan & Thayer, LLP
Sandra Schofield
Nicholas and Indira Schorsch
Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch
Amanda Schuld
David Schuller
Skylar Schuster
Frank Seaman
Seamen's Church Institute
Naomi Serra

“MLKCC is my favorite local non-profit, and you will always have my support. I'm on a fixed income, but I do whatever I can to support the center.”

— *Middletown retiree*

Nancy Sevich
 Deidre Sharpe
 Doris Shaw
 Shaw's Markets
 Catherine Sheehan
 Sheehan's Office Interiors Inc.
 Heather Sheley
 Amos Shepard
 Shewatuck Farm
 Shore Soap Co.
 Manuel and Paula Silva
 Simmons Farm
 Simple Merchant Coffee
 Dwight and Susan Sippelle
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
 Skin Pros
 Slim Possible
 Cooper Smith
 Mary Alice Smith
 Meggin Smith
 Melanie Smith
 Philip and Louise Smith
 Kim Smith-Reid
 Smyth Painting Company
 Stephanie Smyth
 Snorkle Club
 Hannah and Patrick Snow
 Theo Soares
 Gianna Solitto
 William and Elaine Souza
 St. Anthony's Church
 St. Augustin Church
 St. Columba's Chapel
 St. George's School
 St. John the Evangelist Church
 St. Lucy's Church
 St. Mark Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 St. Mary's Episcopal Prayer Shawl Ministry
 St. Michael's Country Day School
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 St. Philomena's School
 St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
 Terri Stafford
 Stalise
 Evelyn Sterne
 Elizabeth Stevens and Norman MacLeod
 Dina Stewart Levitre
 Stoneacre Garden and Stoneacre Brasserie
 Stop & Shop Supermarket #0708

Stop & Shop Supermarket #0731
 Carol Sullivan
 Frank and Lisa Sullivan
 Patricia Sullivan
 Shirley Sullivan
 Margaret Sullivan-Carr
 SUP Club
 Joan Sweeney
 Sweet Berry Farm
 Michael Swistak
 S/Y J&J
 S/Y Marie
 S/Y Ranger
 Stephanie Szelest
 Kathleen and Len Taddei
 Robert Tamboe
 Gina Tangorra
 Tavern on Broadway
 Charles and Jennifer Taylor
 Susan Douglas Taylor and Norman F. E. Best
 Temple Shalom
 Marc and Laurel Thayer
 The Aquidneck Club

The Black Pearl
 The Chemical Company
 The Coggeshall Club
 The Confetti Foundation
 The Connect Real Estate Group
 @ Keller Williams Realty
 The Edward King House
 The English Cousins
 The Gap - Newport
 The Landing Restaurant Employees
 The Local Patch
 The Met East Bay School
 The Mooring Seafood Kitchen & Bar
 The Newport Huddlers
 The Point Association of Newport, RI
 The Potter League for Animals
 The Reef Newport
 The UPS Store
 Colby Thim
 Thompson Middle School
 Community Garden
 Nikki Tiernan
 Tito's Cantina



Summer Camp offers experiential learning like this trip to the Redwood Library

Supporters



Masks can't hide the holiday spirit at Santa's Workshop where moms and dads of 916 local children chose toys and gifts for a merry Christmas.

Georganne Tollefson
Walker Toma
Total Mortgage
Touro Synagogue Congregation
Jeshuat Israel
Train with Jane
Peter and Amy Traisci
Trinity Church
Ava Troppoli
Bella Troppoli
Donald and Pamela Troppoli
Alden S. Tucker
Christine Turbitt
Lynne Turnbull
Sue Turner
Kerry Tyson and Zackary King
United Congregational Church
United Hebrew School of Aquidneck Island
URI Research Foundation
USCGC Sycamore
Patricia and Daniel Ustick
Kelly Valente
Suzi and David Van Ness
James Van Winkle and Betsy Blair
John and Dyan Vaughan
Joseph and Liz Vendittelli
Stephanie Vieira
Viking Tours of Newport

Melissa Vitalli
Viti Inc.
Lindsey Viveiros
WADK 1540AM / 3G Broadcasting, Inc.
Liz Walker
Jane Walsh
Joseph Walsh
Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club
Warner Realty Group LLC
Sandy Warner
Bonnie Watson
Spencer Waybright
Victoria Weaver
Webster Bank
Chelsea Weibust
Michael and Susan Weiss
Roger and Susan Wells
Jeffrey Weston
Carter White
Joseph M. White
Stephanie Wiggins

Sam and Mary Wiley
Elyse Wilkie
Jonathan Will and Ellen Johnson Will
Nancy Willis
Willow Tree Childcare
Rick Wilson
Windmist Farm LLC
James and Barbara Winters
Loraine Winthrop
John and Linnea Wolfe
Women's Resource Center
Susan Woods
Gail Woodworth
Harrison M. and Josephine Wright
James and Catherine Wright
Wyndham Long Wharf Resort
Wyndham Newport/
The Atlantic Resort Newport
Samantha Yankov
Tessa Young
Jason Yozura
Robert and Lois Zawrotny

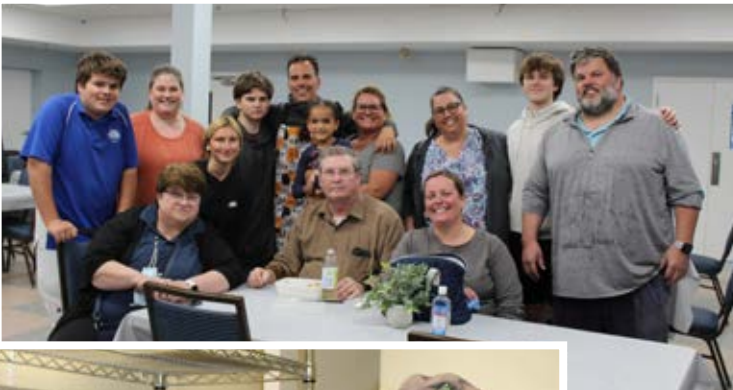
“To the wonderful, amazing, staff and volunteers at MLK,
Thank you! Thank you for the love, joy and the Christmas Spirit!
And thank you so much for the presents. You all have blessed my
children and me in a way that is beyond words. I am truly grateful!”

— Newport Mom

501 volunteers gave
17,333 hours of service in 2022.

Volunteers have always been the lifeblood of the MLK Community Center, sustaining our programs with their time and talent. They perform essential tasks like preparing and serving meals, sorting and organizing food in the pantry, escorting clients in the Food Pantry and Mobile Food Pantry, supporting seniors and families in our Holiday Meal and Santa's Workshop program and more.

With boundless gratitude, we salute these selfless and dedicated people. The MLK could not exist without them.



Volunteers come to the MLK from across the community: individuals, families, businesses, and schools. Their impact is enormous.

Volunteers

Amy Acampora
Gehilen Acevedo
Shirley Ackerman
Gail Alofsin
John Alofsin
Liz Alofsin
Sarah Angot
Carlos Aponte
Juan Aponte
Ida Aramli
Mark Aramli
Michael Ashman
Andrea Bailey
T. Bailey
Lisa Ballard
Caroline Bamford
BankNewport
Mona Barbera
Edmilson
de Andrade Barbosa
Alexis Barker
Lucas Barnes
Lynda Barnes
Susan Barnes
Katie Barrett
Justin Bass

Grace Battite
Tracey Becker
Terri Behan
Lucy Belka
Heather Bestoso
Tom Beverly
Betsy Blair
Kate Blair Van Winkle
Katie Blais
Robin Blancarte
Ryan Bolusky
Samantha Bonello
Laureen Bonin
Gale Boone
Monica Boswell
Martha Bottella
Giada Boucher
Gigi Boucher
Nicole Bowen
Janet Bowman
Pel Boyer
Mark Braga
Jay Bragan
Lila Bragan
Taylor Brandariz
Sean Breede

Alexandria Brett
Andrea Breyer
Avarie Breyer
Paige Breyer
Maury Bric
Jeff Brooks
Miyah Brooks
Maureen Buckley
Moiria Buckley
Kim Bullock
Gloria Burcoff
John Burke
Kelsey Burke
Pat Burke
Sue Burke
Katelyn Buzzerio
John Cadwalader
Robert Cadwalader
Ryan Campbell
Leo Caramore
Ian Carrillo
Carol Carroll
Greg Carroll
Judy Carroll
Mary Lou Cavanaugh
James Cawley

Michael Cecchi
Karlie Cesarini
Robert Chapman
Kelvin Chen
Brody Cimaglia
Heather Clune
Mary Ann Cofrin
Karen Collins
Brendan Conaty
Adam Conheeny
Addie Conheeny
Anna Conheeny
Deanna Conheeny
Pauline Cooper
Gabriella Coppola
David Correia
Sue Costa
Karla Costa
Bob Coveney
Paula Coveney
Norey Cullen
Kim Cummins
Richard Cummins
Liam Daly
Carter Damm
Hailey Daviau

Herbert De Sola
Kim Demagistris
Jolani Devora
Trish DiRuggiero
Kelly Doern
Maryellen Doherty
Christine Donnellan
Mary Donnellan
Norman Dow
Lynnette Dow
Ben Duarte
Mary Duckett
Jake Duncan
Tristan Dyer
Lauren Early
Melissa Easley
David Easterbrooks
Brooke Eaton
Jamel Edelen
Dianne Elliott
George Emerson
Elia Esclamandou
Marvin Escobar
Maureen Fallon
Sarah Falvo
Matt Fenster
Tony Fernandes
Hermano Ferreira
Jennifer Ferreira
David Field
Amy Field
Don Fitzpatrick
Adrian Flatgard
Pam Fleming
Tommy Flickinger
Farm and Flora
Charlotte Flynn
Laura Foley
Rico Fonseca
Taylor Fontana
Meredith Forster
Julia Forster
Brien Fox
Scott Fredrickson
Jean Frisbie
Russell Frisbie
Annalese Gagliardi
Robert Gaines
Jane Galin
Ashley Gallagher
Sandy Gallagher



Preschool supports the social and emotional growth of young children with a full day of learning through exploration and play, and includes breakfast, lunch and snack. Over half of the children are English Language Learners.

Volunteers

Michele Gallagher
Glesinger
Rachel Gallo
Sophie Garman
Cheryl Gartner
Emerson Genovese
Matthew George
Martha Giarratano
Jane Gilgun
Candy Gilmartin
John Gilmartin
Chris Gleason
John Gleason
McKay Gleason
Shawna Gleason
George Glover
Gavin Golden
Kelly Golden
Molly Goldman
Daniel Goldstein
Jack Goss
Bev Gilmartin
Dave Gove
Maegan Grant
Nesta Gray
Berne Greene
John Greichen
Mimi Greichen
Patricia Greichen
Mike Grey
Geanne Griffith
Keith Grove
Rock Hahn
Terry Hahn
Bill Hall
Kate Hamilton
Sarah Harding
David Harpool
Jeanne Harrington

William Harrington
Nyja Hart
Margaret Haywood
Honesty Hazzard
Charles Herndon
Alecta Hill
Rachel Holbert
Sarah Holcomb
Bethany Hole
Bridget Hole
Jen Hole
John Hole
Mason Holling
Sherri Hollins
Douglas Horsey
Nancy Horsey
Jessie House
Erin Howe
Philip Howe
Rich Hudson
Elizabeth Hughes
Marybeth Hunte
Debra Huntington
Rose Hyder
Troy Ignacio
Ana Inciarte
Blair Ingraham
Eddie Irving
Kathy Irving
Jelani Jackson
Michael Jacques
Linda Jenkins
Peter Jenkins
Margret Jenkins
Michelle Jones
Lisa Judge
Linda Jutras
David Kalif
Nina Kaull

Steven Kay
Lia-Sophie Keller
Alexandra Kelly
Denise Kelly
Ryan Kelly
Laurel Kenney
Sunny Kennedy
Jim Kenney
Nancy Keyworth
Finn King
Knights of Columbus,
Newport/Middletown
Council #256
George Korolenko
Paula Kramer
Kadi Kremer
Sarah Kronsberg
Lindsey Kusick
Gregory Labrie
Jeffrey Lachance
Shawnita Lambert
Victor Lambert
Katie Langford
Matthew Langford
Scott Langford
Anna Lassow
Meaghan Latella
Justin Laurie
Rex LeBeau
Rebecca Knapp LeBlanc
Davis Lee
Marie Leonard
Teresa Mae Leveille
Judy Levitt
Cassandra Licausi
Cameron Little
Laura Loftus
Katerina Looney
Rebecca Lorick



The Center's client employment program provides jobs and adds revenue to support other programs

Kate Lucey
Bob Lundgren
Lilly Lunson
Lindsay Lyons
Brady Lyons
Gael M'Rabet
Anastasia MacNaught
Sarah Maher
Marilynne Manning
Steve Marino
Christina Martin
Avery Marvell
Liz Mastin
Norah Mateos
Luis Mateos
Darien Matta
Tom Matthews
Robin Maxcy
Joan McCarthy
Kevin McCarthy
Patty McCarthy
Sheila McEntee
Margaret McGill
Pauline McGrady
Liv McHugh
Megan McHugh
Jennifer McIntosh
Connie McKaye
Greg McKaye

Kelsey McKeon
Jen McMahan
Molly McRoberts
Jackie McVicker
Lisa McWilliams
Tara Mello
Samantha Menendez
Tracy Menendez
Constance Metcalf
Midtown Oyster Bar
Nicole Mitchell
Kristin Mollo
Tristan Morris
Phil Moyles
Bill Murphy
Ella Murphy
Margaret Murphy
Sarah Murphy
Stephen Murphy
Susan Murphy
Bert Nalle
Mary Lou Nelson
Santiago Neville
Daniel Nevitt
Farouk Niazy
Susan Niazy
Amy Nolan
Robert Novick
Marguerite O'Rourke

“This is what it was like coming here... Sometimes people criticize people like me who need the help. The man that took me through [the racks of groceries] made me feel like I didn't have to be embarrassed for needing to come here, and that it was okay to get help. They made me feel cared for. They made me feel good about myself. They made you feel welcome, not needy.”

— Senior, Middletown Mobile Food Pantry

Volunteers

Katie Ochoa
Nora O'Halloran
Caitlin O'Hanley
Hillary Olinger
Emma O'Loughlin
Donaldo O'Neil
Jennifer O'Neil
Christopher O'Shea
Willem Oswald
Christopher Paixao
Loren Palmer
Edgar Paniagua
Jennifer Pape
Saarah Papineau
Robert Pasquale
Kate Paul
Amy Paulsen
Jennifer Pedrick
Katie Pelletier
DonEL Pemberton
Frances Perkins
Margaret Perkins
Elizabeth Phelps
Kevin Phillips
Sam Phelps
Linda Pilgrim
Karen Pinelli
Madeline Polss
Alex Porter
Helen Primis
Marie Puzzo
Jean Quinn
Brianna Ratrie
Bill Rauch
Richard Reed
Maxwell Reis

Dayna Rera
Lynne Rey
Oliver Rey
Sophia Rey
Tony Rey
Chelsey Reynolds
Grace Riccio
Jackson Richardson
Jane Riley
Erin Rinaldi
Jovanni Rivera
Maria Rivera
Michael Robinson
Robert Rodrigues
Rafael Rodriguez
Clare Rok
John Rok
Kitty Rok
Morgan Roll
Matt Rose
Laura Rosen
Blake Rossiter
Sam Rudd
Tim Saad
Maren Salas
Kelly Salem
Salve Regina University
Frankie Sanchez
Tovia Sanders
Hilda Santos
Wilfredo Santos
Nicole Saramago
Paul Saunders
Dave Schuller
Ryan Schult
Hayley Schultz



Families enjoying a community meal.

David Scott
Deidre Sharpe
Erin Shaw
Dennis Sheehan
Reid Sherline
Matthew Shore
Brennan Shuttle
Jane Sigal
Jami Silveira
Mary Silvia
Paula Silvia
Kate Sisk
Whitney Slade
Sam Slater
Nate Smith
Emma Soriano
David Spigel
Dana Spring
Monie Stadler

Lauren Stevens
Rick Sticca
Linda Sticca
Edward Stiess
Christopher Strout
Jenna Strout
Carol Sullivan
Madeline Sullivan
John P. Sullivan
Sally Swistak
Kathleen Taddei
Maria Takacs
Julia Tash
Peter Tea
Ingrid Tejada
Allison Thompson
Rebecca Thompson
Gene Thompson-Grove
Brandon Todd
Joe Tomasello
Bee Trout
Shannon Turner
Kerry Tyson
UnitedHealthcare
Patricia Ustick
Jim Van Winkle
Ashley Vasquez
Richard Ventura
Kelle Viana
Stephanie Vieira
Carter Violette
Ellie Voorhes
Tyler Wade

Anne Waisenan
Mary Walker
Patrick Walker
Conor Walsh
Shea Ward
Cheryl Ware
Marilyn Warren
Jennifer Watts-Ackermans
Colleen Welsh
Debbie Whalley
Austin White
Shanan Wolfe
Evette Woodbury
Gail Woodworth
Emily Wyrick
Brian Young
Orlando Zambrano
Bob Zawrotny
Lois Zawrotny
Ingrid Zaza

“Marta* came to the MLK when she was four. She was an introverted four-year-old preschooler who spoke very little English. In the past few years, her confidence has really blossomed. She's become fluent in English. She's in first grade now. Marta loves to read and is a model for her peers. She reads books in English and translates them into Spanish for her peers in After School.”

— MLK Education Staff

* Name changed to protect privacy

PHOTOS:
Adrien Flatgard
Kim Fuller
Kate Whitney Lucey
MLK Staff
Rick Sticca

Tribute Giving

Tribute gifts offer thoughtful opportunities to remember a special person, to celebrate a milestone, or to express gratitude. These deeply meaningful gifts provide lasting impact by sustaining the MLK Center's work to better the lives of the most vulnerable people in Newport County. We are humbled and grateful.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

In Memory of Kyle Albrecht

Charles Albrecht
Anonymous
William Farrell
Michael Mazza

In Memory of Carolyn J. Amoruso

Holly and Louis Amoruso III

In Memory of Ramon Izaiah Arroyo

Dennis P. Sullivan

In Memory of William Barnes

Emlen and Elizabeth Drayton

In Memory of Robert A. Beaver

Mrs. Robert A. Beaver
Adrienne Haylor

In Memory of Patricia R. Beede

Robert and Cynthia Albanese

In Memory of Norman R. 'J.R.' Beretta, Jr.

Elizabeth J. Beretta
Joseph R. Beretta
Marybeth Beretta, RSM
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Jeffrey and Brenna Jordan
Louis and Kara Murphy
Michael Perik and Elizabeth Beretta-Perik
Lodovico Uriati
Manuel and Mary Vales

In Memory of William Boatwright

Terry Childs
R. Michael and Helene Sceery
Christopher and Carrie Scholz

In Memory of Edward J. Callahan

Catherine Callahan

In Memory of Sharon Carter

Gloria Dunn
Gustave White Sotheby's International Realty

In Memory of Elizabeth Casella

Dawn Casella
Nadine Debbie
Alyson and Robert Novick

In Memory of Matthew and Emily Ciany

Charles and Toni Ciany

In Memory of Robert Coe

Margaret Kirschner

In Memory of William 'Billy' Coffey

Patricia and Cecil Hollingsworth
Richard and Joan Kelly
Sophia Pendergast
Nanci Stewart

In Memory of Edward Coll

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Richard du Moulin

Kaitlyn Nanartowich
Alyson and Robert Novick
Fotios Ntousopoulos
Julia O'Halloran
Paul and Patricia Onofrio
Portsmouth High School Athletic Boosters
Laura Rabenold
Lucas de Romijn
Gary Vogel
John and Linnea Wolfe
Peter Yu

In Memory of Alfred & Elizabeth Conklin

Anonymous

In Memory of Charlie Crabtree

Brenda Carr

In Memory of Jose Duarte

Cecilia Duarte

In Memory of George W. Emerson III

Gail and John Alofsin
Anonymous
Deanna Conheeny
Susan F Cooper
Jacqui Fitzgerald
Sandy Gallagher
Walter and Eileen Jachna
Suzi and David Van Ness
Alyson and Robert Novick
Edna G. O'Connell
David and Marilyn Roderick
Craig and Sarah Richardson
Dave Schuller
Elizabeth F. Smith
Heather Hole Strout
James Van Winkle and Betsy Blair
Thomas and Marilyn Warren
Booker and Thelma Williams
Marnie Jewell and Margaret Winters

In Memory of Linda Susan Everitt

David and Marilyn Roderick
June S. Wing

Tribute Giving

In Memory of Geoff Ewenson

EWE Spirit Foundation Inc.

**In Memory of
Geoff and Patsy Ewenson**

Mary Iliff Ewenson

In Memory of Ursula N. D. Gibbons

Ernest Gibbons Jr and Alison Cooper

**In Memory of
Baruch and Rebecca Goldstein**

Sue Rita Goldstein

In Memory of Rick Hole

Heather Hole Strout

In Memory of Stephen J. Jemo, Jr.

Holly and Louis Amoruso III

**In Memory of
Elizabeth Margaret Kennedy**

Martha E. Ferris

Peter and Robin Frazier

Doria Forgue

Rian and Sue Wilkinson

**In Memory of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Rabiah Coon

Alex Goldman

In Memory of James D. Klau

Sue Klau

**In Memory of
Maureen Rooney Kramer**

Patrick and Pamela Rooney

In Memory of Claudia Lanoie

Thomas and Charlotte Yeomans

In Memory of Larry Larrison

Anonymous

In Memory of Eric Lincoln

David and Helen Lincoln

In Memory of Ed and Betty Lisbon

Barbara A. Lisbon

In Memory of Arthur Lusignan

Paul McGoran

In Memory of Tucky Mahoney

James F. Mahoney

In Memory of Coles Mallory

Amy Gerber

In Memory of Vincent and Rita McMahon

Teresa McMahon

In Memory of Donald McMillan

Jean McMillan

**In Memory of
Joseph C. Miklos and Anna W. Miklos**

Victoria Miklos

In Memory of Dot Millirons

Anonymous

In Memory of Colin A. Moore

Anonymous

Jeremiah and Heather Lynch

Richard Moore

In Memory of Thomas ‘Chic’ Murphy

Ancient Order of Hibernians,

Dennis Collins Division I

In Memory of Chris Murphy

Eric Lyon

In Memory of Bob and Barbara Nass

Kiki Finn

In Memory of Patricia O’Leary

Holly and Louis Amoruso III

In Memory of Peter O’Neill

Margie, Missy, Brian and Salpi O’Neill

In Memory of Anne Owens

Philip and Martha Coriander

In Memory of James and Mary Perry

Richard and Veronica St. Jean

In Memory of Col John H. Peterson

Sharyl Jump

In Memory of Shirley F. Riess

Alyson and Robert Novick

In Memory of Ernest and Mary A. Ritchie

David and Donna Marie Goodrich

In Memory of Dorothy M. Ryalls

Patricia Jefferson

In Memory of Casper ‘Kip’ Schenck

Susan Ann Schenck

In Memory of Toni Schuller

Anonymous

David Schuller

In Memory of Tia Scigulinsky

Brian and Annette Pelletier

In Memory of Jennifer Reese-Sherrill

Mary Johnson and Charles Beltz

In Memory of Allen Shers

Holly and Louis Amoruso III

In Memory of Ann Soper

Nell Soper

In Memory of Cathleen Speer

Gregory Huet and Lisa Speer-Huet

Eric and Linda Speer

Paul and Susan Speer

John Speer

In Memory of Nathan Traibman

Theresa Lacerda

In Memory of Dorothy Tubbs

Linda T. Jenkins

In Memory of Dr. Robin Wallace

Phyllis Detwiler

Tribute Giving

We gratefully acknowledge gifts made in honor of the following individuals and congratulate them on this recognition.

GIFTS IN HONOR

In Honor of Andrew & Katie

Teresa Karn

In Honor of Arthur and Kim

Arthur Mead

In Honor of Torrey and Nicole Bartlett

Bruce and Mimi Bartlett

In Honor of Ashley Bella

Debra Ruffin

In Honor of M. Butlin

Bridget Butlin

In Honor of Ed Crowley and Melanie Saunders

David and Mary Ann Fiaschetti

In Honor of Rob DePaola

Ryan Humble

In Honor of Peter Dunbar

Lynn Lewis

In Honor of George Wein Foundation

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Mercedes Deines

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Mark Gorman

In Honor of Judy Hall

Kathy Stark

In Honor of Irene Haney

Trish DiRuggiero

In Honor of Kerri Hayes

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

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William and Marabeth Farrell

In Honor of Heather Hole Strout

Charles and Leslie Gordon

In Honor of Dr. Beth Holland and Michael Boardman

Mr. and Mrs. Jack K. Holland

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Lynn Fallon

Cheri Howard

Mary Maarbjerg

Christi Malafronte

Lillie Paiva

Amy Richard

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Elizabeth Minifie

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Anthony and Lucia Jaccaci

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Jane Gilgun

In Honor of Jordan and Deanna

Catherine McCarthy

In Honor of Steve Kastner

Michelle E. Skoorka

In Honor of Jess Kirby

Christina Livada

In Honor of Chris Kirwin

Ancient Order of Hibernians,
Dennis Collins Division I

In Honor of Elizabeth Leatherman

Jonathan and Bettie Pardee

Diana Pearson

In Honor of Abby Leys

Arthur Mead

In Honor of Ben Leys

Arthur Mead

In Honor of Lila Leys

Arthur Mead

In Honor of Matt and Michelle Leys

Arthur Mead

In Honor of Robert and Beverly Lobecker

Teresa McMahon

In Honor of Bob and Liz Mastin

Monica Michelle Drum

In Honor of Carolyn McClair

Deborah Ross

In Honor of Grace McCluskey

Ryan Yalanis

In Honor of MLK Community Center's 100th Birthday

Heather Hole Strout

In Honor of MLK Community Center's Hunger Services Staff

Susan Barnes and Claudia Helt

In Honor of MLK Community Center's Staff

Maryellen Doherty

Adrienne Haylor

In Honor of Dave Monroe

Heidi Monroe

Kenneth Monroe

Jeffrey and Betsy Yost

In Honor of Milo Moulton

Kenton Zimmerman

Tribute Giving

In Honor of Janet Nobis

Elizabeth Broome

In Honor of Ben and Kuni Ohama

Susan Ohama

In Honor of David Pedrick

Geoff Pedrick

In Honor of

Elizabeth Beretta Perik and Michael Perik

Elizabeth J. Beretta

Richard and Amy Beretta

In Honor of

Matthew Boyle and Maureen Philbin

David Arnold

Allison Bernier

Cynthia Cunningham

Kara Forde

Harry Hallgring

Matthew Kane

Thomas and Carole Kane

Joan Marsh and Owen Philbin

Susan Michael

Kaitlin O'Mealey

Michael O'Mealey

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Hope Rubin

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Brian and Patricia Toracinta

In Honor of Ed Rizy

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Doreen and David Candeias

In Honor of Rowan

Lisa Lima-Tessier

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John Thompson

In Honor of Phil Sardella

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Dawn Brolin

Mary Devine

Theresa Duncan

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Kelly Gonsalves

Grant Satterley

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Jennifer van Panhuis

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In Honor of

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Colin Westbrook

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Gretchen Woodard

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